



# BOYS *of* *the* BIBLE

HARVEY ALBERT SNYDER







Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2024







Joseph was brought before the king to interpret his dreams for him

# BOYS OF THE BIBLE

TOLD IN SIMPLE LANGUAGE

BY  
REV. HARVEY ALBERT SNYDER

ILLUSTRATED

THE JOHN C. WINSTON COMPANY  
CHICAGO PHILADELPHIA TORONTO

Copyright, 1929, by  
**THE JOHN C. WINSTON COMPANY**  
Copyright, 1911, by W. E. Scull

---

All rights reserved



## CONTENTS

	PAGE
THE FIRST TWO BOYS IN THE WORLD.....	1
LOT AND HIS UNCLE ABRAHAM.....	7
WILD ESAU AND WISE JACOB.....	11
JOSEPH IS SOLD BY HIS BROTHERS.....	20
JOASH'S GOOD BEGINNING AND BAD ENDING....	31
HOW LITTLE SAMUEL HEARD THE LORD.....	37
THE BATTLE BETWEEN DAVID AND THE GIANT..	42
THE REIGN OF WISE KING SOLOMON.....	50
THE BOY WHOM ELISHA RESTORED TO LIFE....	54
THE BOY JOSIAH BECOMES A GOOD KING.....	58
HOW DANIEL WAS SAVED FROM THE LIONS.....	63
JESUS AS A BOY.....	70
THE LAD WITH THE LOAVES AND FISHES.....	77
HOW TIMOTHY BECAME A MISSIONARY.....	82
THE BOY WHO RAN AWAY FROM HOME.....	87
HOW PAUL BECAME A CHRISTIAN.....	93
PAUL'S LITTLE NEPHEW.....	101



## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

JOSEPH WAS BROUGHT BEFORE THE KING TO INTER- PRET HIS DREAMS FOR HIM.....	<i>Frontispiece</i>
	PAGE
ADAM AND EVE WERE VERY PROUD OF THEIR TWO BOYS.....	3
ISAAC BLESSED JACOB, JUST AS ESAU WAS RETURN- ING FROM THE HUNT.....	15
JOSEPH WAS TAKEN OUT OF THE PIT, AND SOLD TO THE ISHMAELITES.....	23
AS SOON AS LITTLE SAMUEL WAS OLD ENOUGH HIS MOTHER TOOK HIM UP TO SHILOH TO LIVE WITH ELI IN THE TEMPLE.....	38
THE GIANT FELL DOWN UPON HIS FACE TO THE EARTH.....	48
SOLOMON WAS ANOINTED KING BY THE CHIEF PRIEST	52
THE MOTHER WENT OUT HAPPY WITH HER LITTLE SON.....	56
KING JOSIAH CAUSED THE BOOK OF THE LAW TO BE READ TO ALL THE PEOPLE.....	61
JOSEPH AND MARY FOUND JESUS IN THE TEMPLE TALKING WITH THE DOCTORS.....	74
JESUS TOOK THE LOAVES AND BLESSED THEM.....	79
GREAT CROWDS LISTENED TO PAUL AS HE PREACHED IN THE STREETS OF ATHENS.....	98

OPEN the door of your heart, my lad,  
To the angels of love and truth;  
When the world is full of unnumbered joys,  
In the beautiful dawn of youth.  
Casting aside all things that mar,  
Saying to wrong, "Depart!"  
To the voices of hope that are calling you  
Open the door of your heart.

—*Edward Everett Hale*

## THE FIRST TWO BOYS IN THE WORLD

**T**HOUSANDS of years ago God made the world. Then he made the sun and the moon and the stars. The whole world was covered with water, so he separated the earth from the water. The waters gathered into rivers and seas, and the earth became dry land. Then God saw that the ground was barren, so he made the grass to grow, and trees to bear fruit, and beautiful flowers.

There was no living thing upon the earth or in the sea, so God made the great whales, and all the fishes that swim in the sea, and the birds that fly over the land. He made the wild animals, such as elephants, lions, tigers, bears, and the tame animals for men to use, such as horses, oxen, cows, and sheep.

The last thing that God made was man, and he made him master over all the animals that had been made.

One man alone in this great world would become very lonesome, so God made woman that she might be his companion and help him in his



## THE FIRST TWO BOYS

---

work. The man he called Adam and the woman he called Eve.

It must have seemed strange to this first couple to know just what to do and how to live. There were no houses in which to live, and they had nothing with which to cook and bake as we have. We are told that they ate fruit and berries which God caused to grow in great abundance.

After a time Adam and Eve had a little baby to bless them in their loneliness. The animals all around them, which God told them to name, were all very interesting, but they were not like children. Their first baby was a boy and they called him Cain. They loved their little son and he grew to be a lively little fellow.

It was not long before Cain had a little brother, and they called him Abel. How happy Cain must have been to see another little boy.

The parents were very proud of their two boys and tried to teach them to do right and love the God who made the world.

The boys were soon old enough to run about and play. There were no cities or narrow streets in which to play; neither were there any farms or yards. They had all out-of-doors to play in, and could romp about anywhere. There were no

## THE FIRST TWO BOYS

---

neighbor boys or girls, for they were the only children in the world. It must have seemed very queer to little Cain and Abel. Possibly they made pets of some of the strange animals that God had made, and played with them.



ADAM AND EVE WERE VERY PROUD OF THEIR TWO BOYS

There were no games, no music, no schools, no pictures, no books, and no letters to learn in those early days of the world. There were no stores where they could go to buy candy or toys. There was not a shop to make anything, not even a pair of shoes. But they were kept

## THE FIRST TWO BOYS

---

busy learning about the world God had made and about all the things they saw in it.

As Cain and Abel grew to be young men there was a great difference in them. Cain liked to work the ground, and he became a farmer and gardener. Abel did not care for this kind of work and he became a shepherd and kept large flocks of sheep.

Abel was a kind and forgiving young man and loved God. Cain had more of a selfish nature. Sometimes these boys would wrong each other or commit some sin against God. Abel would always seek forgiveness, and ask God to pardon him. Cain was more stubborn and sinful and would not ask God to forgive him.

It was customary in those days to bring an offering to God. The best lamb or the best fruit was chosen for the offering. It was to show thankfulness to God for what he had given them. If a lamb was offered it was customary to kill the lamb and then burn it upon an altar. This altar was usually a pile of stones as high as a table, with a flat top. Dry pieces of wood were laid upon the stones, and the dead lamb was laid upon the wood. The wood was then set on fire and the lamb was burned, leaving nothing but the ashes. In making this offering, Abel asked God to forgive him for any sin he had com-

## THE FIRST TWO BOYS

mitted. He believed that God some day would send a Saviour, Jesus, into the world. God was pleased that Abel should worship him in that way.

When Cain built his altar, he offered some fruit and grain from his fields, but he did not believe that God would ever send a Saviour, and he was jealous of his brother Abel. He would not ask God to forgive him of his sins, so God was not pleased with Cain or his offering. This made Cain angry at God, and more jealous of his brother. God knew what was in his heart, and spoke kindly to him and asked why he had become angry. He said to Cain that if he would do right he would be pleased with his offering and accept it, but if he would not do right the fault was his own.

This sin of jealousy kept growing in Cain's heart, and one day when he and Abel were out in the fields together, he struck Abel with a club and killed him. This was a terrible deed. How Adam and Eve must have felt when they knew it. But God, who sees everything, saw Cain kill his brother, and asked, saying, "Cain, where is Abel, thy brother?"

Cain tried to be innocent and replied, "I know not; am I my brother's keeper?" But God knew what Cain had done, and as a pun-



## THE FIRST TWO BOYS

---

ishment for killing Abel, God said that he should wander from place to place upon the earth without any peace. He told Cain that whenever he planted anything in the fields it would not grow well, but often wither and die, and the briers and weeds would choke his crops. Then God placed a strange mark upon Cain, that wherever he went it would be known that he was a murderer and the people would not kill him, but allow him to live and suffer for his great sin.

Adam lived to be nine hundred thirty years old, but he grieved because of this great sin which his son had committed.



## LOT AND HIS UNCLE ABRAHAM

**L**OT was an orphan boy. His father died when he was only six or seven years old. His mother could not care for her large family alone, so his uncle Abraham took him into his family.

Lot never knew much about his father Haran, but he loved Abraham, his father's brother. We are told that Abraham always treated him as his own son.

We do not know how many brothers and sisters there were, but we are quite sure that Sarah, who was Abraham's wife, was Lot's older sister. This made it very pleasant for Lot. He would not get so lonesome as he would among strangers.

God was very good to Abraham, and Abraham loved God. He taught his little nephew to love and respect God.

Lot's uncle was a rich man. He owned many herds of cattle and large flocks of sheep. He traveled from place to place to find pasture for the herds, and Lot always went with him.

Lot had a few faults. He was a strong-minded little fellow and always wanted his own

## LOT AND HIS UNCLE ABRAHAM

way. He was also a little selfish. Probably his sister Sarah had spoiled him, because he was an orphan boy. But he and his uncle agreed in nearly everything.

Lot did not attend school, but received his training from his uncle who taught him about God, and the history of the world. He taught him how to do business for himself.

When Lot became a young man he went with his uncle down into the land of Canaan. This was a journey of about six hundred miles. This long journey had to be made on foot, or by riding a donkey.

When they came to Canaan there was a famine in the land. There were no crops, and the grass was all dried up, so they continued to go south until they came into Egypt. Here they found a rich, fertile country with good crops. They made this their home for two or three years. During this time they were trading in cattle, and by the time they were ready to return north to Canaan, where God had told Abraham to go, they had become rich. Each had many, many cattle.

Abraham and Lot each had a number of herdsmen, or shepherds, to drive and care for their flocks.

When they returned to the land of Canaan

## LOT AND HIS UNCLE ABRAHAM

they stopped at Bethel near Jerusalem. The country was still very dry and there was not enough water to supply all the cattle. We are told that there was a quarrel between the herdsmen of Abraham's cattle and the herdsmen of Lot's cattle. The wells were dry and the springs of water were scarce, and jealousy arose among the shepherds about the use of the water.

God had given Abraham possession of that entire country, that he might control it and use it as his own. Lot became dissatisfied and was angry. Abraham saw that Lot was no longer content to be his partner, so he said to him, "Let there be no quarrel, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdsmen and thy herdsmen, for we are brethren." Then he told Lot that he might choose any part of that great country as his own. He gave Lot first choice of the land. This showed a kind spirit in this great man. But how did the young man Lot take it? His selfish nature got the better of him and he chose all the best land of the entire country. He chose the rich, fertile valley of the Jordan, with its springs of pure, fresh water, and green pastures, and left for his uncle, who had been so good to him, only the rocky hills and barren deserts.

Some boys might think that Lot was a shrewd

## LOT AND HIS UNCLE ABRAHAM

young man and made a wise choice, but we pity Lot for allowing himself to be selfish. From this time on he began to grow more dishonest.

Abraham did not complain, but took what was left. Lot settled in his fertile valley. After a few years he became dissatisfied there and moved into the wicked city of Sodom. Here he became acquainted with bad men. He learned more bad habits, and it was not long before he lost all that he had.

Abraham always remembered Lot and tried to have him live a better life, but Lot would not heed.

Finally God said that he would destroy Sodom and four other cities because of their great wickedness, and Lot and his family were compelled to flee to the mountains for safety. He had become such a wicked man that his wife would not leave all her friends and go with him. She turned back, while Lot and his daughters went on.

Lot's uncle had taught him to do right, and always favored him, but Lot had learned bad habits. He stopped praying and allowed his selfish, jealous nature to get the best of him. He cared only for himself and became very wicked, and before he died was a disgrace to his family.



## WILD ESAU AND WISE JACOB

**I**SAAC and Rebekah were very happy together, for they loved each other. In time they had twin sons whom they named Esau and Jacob. When a baby, Esau had long hair and was not very fair. His brother Jacob had a smooth skin and was fair.

Twins usually look very much alike. Some are so much alike that it is hard to tell them apart, but it was not so with Esau and Jacob. They did not look alike nor act alike. They were even more unlike in disposition. Perhaps two brothers never were more unlike in their natures.

Esau was a wild, lawless boy causing his father and mother much anxiety. He would not obey and it was often necessary to punish him severely for disobedience and meanness.

Armed with his sling shot, which was made out of a piece of hide and two cords, or with a bow and arrows, he would often run away from his father's tent into the wilderness to shoot at squirrels and birds, or risk his life with larger game. He soon became an expert shot and always enjoyed being with his father in his out-of-



## WILD ESAU AND WISE JACOB

door life caring for the flocks. He loved to roam across the country for miles, often in pursuit of deer whose flesh his father liked. This made him strong and rugged.

Jacob was different. He was quiet and gentle. He was obedient and kind. If anything went wrong, instead of getting angry as Esau did, he felt badly about it.

Esau and Jacob did not always play well together, for Esau was quarrelsome and always wanted his own way and Jacob had to give in to keep peace.

Jacob spent the most of his time around the tents and had no desire to run away with his brother. He liked to be with his mother and he even helped her in the housework. He was a fine spirited boy and always agreeable. He had a quiet disposition and liked to live in comfort and peace.

Rebekah loved Jacob best, but Isaac loved Esau best.

Although Esau and Jacob were twins, Esau was looked upon as the older son and was so treated by his father. In those days there were certain privileges given to the older son in the family at the father's death. This was called the birth-right. It allowed him twice as much of the silver and gold and cattle as the others received. It

## WILD ESAU AND WISE JACOB

made him chief among all the children. In fact he was really the head of the family, and the religious instructor in the home. As Esau was considered Isaac's oldest son the birthright belonged to him.

This did not seem to be a compulsory law, for the oldest son could sell his birthright to any of his other brothers if he chose to do so.

Jacob always wished for the birthright and wondered why he was not as much entitled to it as his brother, both being of the same age. So when they became young men he made up his mind to buy it in some way.

One day Jacob was in his tent cooking a mess of pottage for his supper. This pottage was made by boiling lentils or other kinds of vegetables with meat, in water or milk.

Esau had been out on a long hunting trip for several days and had just returned, completely tired out, sick, and faint with hunger. The good smell of the pottage made him still more hungry, and he asked his brother to give him some of the food. Jacob said he would do so if Esau would sell him his birthright.

Then Esau, who felt sick and weak, said he would die unless he had some nourishment at once. The birthright would do him no good, and he sold it to Jacob for the pottage.

## WILD ESAU AND WISE JACOB

It was not right for Jacob to take this advantage of Esau when he could not help himself. It also showed how selfish Jacob had become. It showed too that Esau did not think enough of his birthright and the position it gave him in the family. He gave up too easily when he was sick and discouraged. In the New Testament he is called "a profane person, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright." He gave up his place at the head of the family, and put himself out of the chosen family from which Jesus was to come.

Esau caused his parents much sorrow by being an unbeliever, and associating with those Canaanites who were not included in the promise of God. In time he married and became leader of a tribe of people living in the hilly land of Seir.

In spite of all that Esau did, Isaac loved him, and when he became old and blind and felt that he could not live much longer, he wished to bless Esau. So he called Esau, who was now a young man, and asked him to go once more and get some of the meat he liked and cook it for him, telling him that he would bless him when he had it prepared.

Esau at once set out to find a deer, but as soon as he had gone, Rebekah planned for Jacob

## WILD ESAU AND WISE JACOB

to get the blessing, for she thought that he ought to have it instead of his brother Esau. Jacob loved his mother and wanted the blessing, but he was afraid his father would know the difference and send a curse upon him instead.



ISAAC BLESSED JACOB JUST AS ESAU WAS RETURNING FROM THE HUNT

But Rebekah said that she would take all the blame. She then sent Jacob for some meat, which she cooked in the way Isaac liked, and then gave him some of Esau's clothes. Jacob also put hairy skins on his hands and neck so



## WILD ESAU AND WISE JACOB

that he would feel like Esau, and went to his old, blind father and was blessed, just as Esau was returning from his hunt.

This blessing was a sacred thing; once given it could not be taken away.

When Esau returned and found what Jacob had done, he became angry, and threatened to kill Jacob after his father died.

This frightened Rebekah and she planned to send Jacob away into a far country to live with her brother Laban. But Jacob could not go without his father's permission. So Rebekah asked Isaac to send Jacob to her brother's country to get a wife. The father thought Jacob ought to be married, so he blessed him again and sent him away.

One morning, bright and early, Rebekah started Jacob on his long journey alone. He walked all day, and at night, tired and alone, he lay down on the dry grass to sleep with a moss-covered stone for a pillow.

In his sleep a wonderful vision came to him. He saw a ladder that reached from the earth to heaven. He saw angels going up and down that ladder, and at the top was God himself, who promised Jacob that he would be with him wherever he went and that his children should have the land in which he was at that time.



## WILD ESAU AND WISE JACOB

In the morning Jacob continued his journey and after several days came near to the city in which his uncle lived. He stopped in a field where there was a well of water. Three flocks of sheep were lying near the well and their shepherds were watching them. Jacob asked the shepherds where they lived and they said, "At Haran." Then Jacob asked if they knew Laban, and they said that they knew him and that he was well. Then they saw Laban's daughter, Rachel, coming to the well with the sheep.

Jacob was glad, for Rachel was his cousin, and he ran up and kissed her and said that he was her cousin. Rachel in her excitement left the flocks and ran home to tell her father that his sister Rebekah's son had come.

Laban was glad when he heard of Jacob's arrival and hastened to meet him, and put his arms around him and kissed him, and brought him to his house.

Jacob stayed with Laban as a visitor for a month, telling him all that had happened during the long years that had passed since Rebekah went away to be Isaac's wife. He also helped to care for the flocks.

Now it so happened that Laban had two daughters, Rachel and Leah. Leah was the older, but Rachel was far the better looking of

## WILD ESAU AND WISE JACOB

the two. They both helped to make Jacob's visit pleasant.

At the end of the month Laban offered to hire Jacob to work for him, but Jacob liked Rachel so well that he told Laban that he would stay and work for him seven years, if at the end of that time he might marry Rachel.

In those days a man gave presents to the father of the girl whom he intended to marry, and Jacob would give seven years of work for Rachel. Laban agreed to this and Jacob began his work, but the years seemed very short, for he loved Rachel.

Rachel was quite young at this time. Perhaps she was only ten or twelve years old, so that by the time seven years were up she was old enough to be his wife.

He faithfully cared for Laban's flocks and at the end of seven years Jacob wanted Rachel as his wife, and Laban made a great wedding for his daughter.

In those days the bride always wore a heavy veil so that the man could not see her face until after the ceremony. When all was ready the bride came and they were married, but after it was over Jacob saw that Leah was the bride instead of Rachel.

This made Jacob very angry. He had been

## WILD ESAU AND WISE JACOB

cheated out of his bride and he demanded of Laban why he had done such a thing. Then Laban excused himself by saying that it was a custom in their country that the youngest daughter must not be married before the oldest one. Besides that, no one had ever asked for Leah and she loved Jacob also. Then he proposed to Jacob that if he would work for him another seven years he might have Rachel as well as Leah.

Jacob agreed to this, and for seven more years he took care of Laban's flocks, and when the time was up he married Rachel. Perhaps he was made to wait as a punishment for taking advantage of his brother Esau.

## JOSEPH IS SOLD BY HIS BROTHERS

**H**UNDREDS and hundreds of years ago there lived at Hebron, a small town twenty-five miles south of Jerusalem, a boy seventeen years old, whose name was Joseph. His father's name was Jacob and his mother's name was Rachel. Jacob was the father of twelve sons, and Joseph was next to the youngest. He was his father's favorite and was always treated better than the other children were when they were boys.

One thing especially caused the older brothers to become jealous of him. Jacob had a coat made of several bright colors for Joseph. Coats of this kind were usually worn by the wealthier class of people and by favored persons.

This coat made Joseph look very handsome, and the neighbors often made remarks about how becoming it was.

Jacob also had the older brothers tend the flocks of sheep and herd the cattle on the plains, while Joseph was left at home to help care for his little brother Benjamin. This with many other things made the older brothers hate Joseph, their father's favorite.

## JOSEPH SOLD BY HIS BROTHERS

One night Joseph had a dream. He dreamed that they were in a field binding wheat into sheaves. Each made a sheaf and set it up and the other sheaves all bowed down to his sheaf. When he told his dream in the morning the brothers became angry and asked, "Do you mean to say that we shall bow down to you, though you are younger than we are?"

Not long afterwards Joseph had another dream. He dreamed that the sun, moon, and eleven stars bowed down to him. In the morning he asked what it could mean, but the father and mother were puzzled. Joseph must have told this dream in a boastful spirit, and hinted that the sun meant his father, the moon his mother, and the eleven stars his brothers, for his father rebuked him and said, "Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down to thee?"

After this his brothers called him the dreamer, and wished for a chance to punish him severely.

The sons of Jacob were shepherds and cared for large flocks of sheep. When the pasture land at Hebron became too short they took their flocks on a long journey north of Shechem, where Jacob owned a piece of ground. It was a distance of about fifty-five miles from Hebron. From here they let the flocks go farther on, eating as



## JOSEPH SOLD BY HIS BROTHERS

they went, living in tents and remaining only a few days at a place.

They had been away from home for several months, possibly nearly a year, and Jacob was anxious to know how they were getting along. It was decided that Joseph should go to find them. Although Joseph was young he undertook the long journey alone, but when he came to Shechem the flocks were not there. As he was walking around, a man met him and asked, "What seekest thou?" Joseph told him about his brothers and their flocks and was told that they were going toward Dothan, fifteen miles farther on, and Joseph started after them.

One day as his brothers were sitting in their tent they saw Joseph coming from a distance, and their hearts were filled with hatred and they told one another that the dreamer was coming. Several of the brothers suggested that they get rid of him. But Reuben, the oldest brother, was not so bad or hard-hearted as the others, and he suggested that they put him in a pit to die.

The country around Dothan was full of deep holes like cisterns in which to catch rain water to use when dry weather came. Reuben thought that when the others moved on he would get Joseph out and send him safely home. They all agreed to this, and when Joseph came to them

## JOSEPH SOLD BY HIS BROTHERS

they asked about their home and father and then put him in the empty cistern.

After Joseph had been put in the cistern they sat down to eat their dinner while Reuben went farther on to watch some of the sheep. Soon they



JOSEPH WAS TAKEN OUT OF THE PIT AND SOLD TO THE  
ISHMAELITES

saw a band of Ishmaelites coming down the road. Their camels were heavily loaded with spices and balm and myrrh. Joseph's brother Judah did not want to commit murder for fear that something would happen to them, so he suggested

## JOSEPH SOLD BY HIS BROTHERS

that they sell Joseph to these merchants. In this way they would be free from the guilt of murder and would get money as well. Joseph, crying and begging to be spared, was taken out and sold for twenty pieces of silver, or about \$10.50 in American money, and they led him away.

When Reuben returned and looked into the pit and did not find Joseph, he was grieved and thought that he had in some way been killed, but his brothers said they had sold him and divided the money.

It was now about the time of year when the flocks were to be taken home to Hebron. The brothers, in order to hide their crime, took the favored coat which they had taken from Joseph and tore it and then spattered it with the blood of a goat so as to make the father believe that some wild animal had killed him.

Jacob and Rachel must have been delighted to hear the bleating of the home-coming flocks, and Benjamin undoubtedly ran down the road to meet them while Jacob patiently waited. But instead of being a meeting full of joy, it was one of sorrow. He could not see Joseph, and to his earnest inquiries the brothers brought the coat and said, "We have found this. You know whether it is your son's coat or no." As soon as



## JOSEPH SOLD BY HIS BROTHERS

he saw it he knew it, and said, "It is my son's coat; a wild beast has torn him to pieces." The brothers did not tell a lie but they acted one, which is just as bad, and then pretended to comfort their father, but he refused to be comforted, and said, "I will go down into the grave unto my son mourning."

Meanwhile these merchants took Joseph down into Egypt and sold him to Potiphar, one of the chief officers in King Pharaoh's household, as a house slave. Here Joseph served his master so well, and was so trusty and true, that Potiphar came to love him and made him steward over his household and overseer of all his property.

It is said that the Lord loved Joseph and "blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake."

Joseph grew up to be an honorable young man, always trying to do right and please the king.

One night King Pharaoh dreamed a dream. He thought he stood by a river and saw seven cows coming up out of the water. They looked nice and fat and went into a meadow and ate grass. Then he saw seven lean cows coming up out of the water, but these looked starved. The starved-looking cows ate up the fat-looking cows. Pharaoh then awoke and wondered why he should dream such a dream.

## JOSEPH SOLD BY HIS BROTHERS

As soon as he had gone to sleep again he dreamed another dream. He thought he saw seven ears of corn growing upon one stalk. They were good ears and well filled. Then he saw seven bad ears that were spoiled and had no good grain upon them, and the bad ears ate up the good ears. Pharaoh awoke again and was troubled.

In the morning he sent for the wise men to come and tell him the meaning of his dreams, but when they heard them they could not interpret them. Then the chief butler told the king that Joseph could interpret dreams, and they sent and brought him before the king. The king told Joseph the dream about the fat and lean cattle, also the one about the good and bad ears of corn.

Joseph said that the two dreams both meant the same thing, and that God had showed Pharaoh in these dreams what he intended to do.

Joseph said that the seven good cows and the seven good ears of corn meant seven years, and the seven bad cows and the seven bad ears of corn meant seven other years. He told the king that there would be seven years of good crops in Egypt, when the corn would grow well and everybody would have plenty. After this there would



## JOSEPH SOLD BY HIS BROTHERS

be seven bad years. There would be a great famine and the people would need bread.

Then Joseph told Pharaoh to choose some wise man to take charge of storing the corn during the seven years of plenty, so that when the famine should come the people would have plenty and not starve.

The king was willing to do as Joseph said, and appointed him ruler over all the land of Egypt, because he showed such wisdom. The king put a ring on Joseph's hand, and dressed him in rich clothing, and put a gold chain about his neck, and made him ride in the chariot next to the king's chariot, and the people bowed down to Joseph as he rode through the country. He had great warehouses built in which to store the grain.

The famine came, but the people in Egypt had grain stored away. But in Canaan there were no warehouses, so that when the corn in Canaan was gone Jacob sent his ten sons down into Egypt to buy corn, for they had heard that the governor had great warehouses of grain stored away for the years of famine.

When they came before Joseph, the governor, he at once recognized them as his brothers, but they did not know him. He treated them rather harshly and pretended that they were spies. In

## JOSEPH SOLD BY HIS BROTHERS

trying to explain that they were not they told much of their past history and of their father Jacob and their younger brother Benjamin at home. Joseph then told them to go home and bring their brother Benjamin to him that he might know what they said was true, and in order to assure their return, he kept Simeon in Egypt.

On their way home with their grain they remembered the great wickedness they did in selling Joseph and believed that this trouble all came to them because of what they did. At home again they told their father what the governor said and did, and when they opened their sacks of grain each man found his money in his sack, and they were afraid. Jacob refused to let Benjamin go, but when Reuben offered his two sons as surety for Benjamin's safe return, and the corn was again all gone, Jacob consented.

Once more the brothers came before the governor and this time Benjamin was with them. Joseph treated them more kindly this time and had a feast prepared at his house for them. While they were eating he asked them many questions about their family. And when they were ready to return home he had their sacks filled and each man's money put into his sack.

## JOSEPH SOLD BY HIS BROTHERS

In the sack of Benjamin he placed a silver cup. Then he started them all on their way home. They had not gone far when Joseph sent men after them to accuse them of stealing. The men did not know that the money was in the sacks and denied the charge. There was great surprise when the sacks were opened and their money was found and in Benjamin's sack the silver cup. They were taken before Joseph. Especially did they plead for Benjamin, saying that their father's "life is bound up in the lad's life, when he seeth that the lad is not with us, he will die; and thy servants shall bring the gray hairs of our father with sorrow to the grave."

This touched Joseph's heart and he could not keep the secret any longer, but broke down and wept before them and said, "I am Joseph. Doth my father yet live?" They were so surprised and frightened that they could not answer him for a time. Then he told them how he had prospered since they had sold him and how God had blessed him and kept him. He gave them food and grain and sent them home to their father, urging them to bring their father to Egypt, and he sent along wagons in which to bring their goods. The king also sent an invitation to Jacob.

The astonished brothers hastened home and

## JOSEPH SOLD BY HIS BROTHERS

told all that had happened. Jacob could not believe that his son whom he had mourned as dead was still alive. But when he saw the great Egyptian wagons which had been sent he said, "It is enough, Joseph my son is yet alive. I will go to see him before I die."

Jacob then prayed to God and God told him to go. As they neared Egypt, Joseph met them and with tears of joy the father was again with his favored son.

Joseph then told the king that his father and brothers had come, and they were presented to the king. The king treated them kindly and gave them pasture lands in Egypt.

Jacob lived in peace for seventeen years and died at the age of one hundred forty-seven years. Joseph lived to be one hundred ten years old.

Joseph was always kind-hearted. He was a true son and a true brother. He was tempted many times to do wrong, but always did what he knew to be right. Instead of taking advantage of his brothers and punishing them for their wickedness, he tried them and then forgave them.



## JOASH'S GOOD BEGINNING AND BAD ENDING

**T**HE people of Judah had become very wicked. There were wars, and the people worshiped idols. Ahaziah, the king, was killed after being king but one year. As soon as his mother, Athaliah, saw that he was dead she hired some men to kill his children, which were her grandchildren, so that she might become queen.

The wife of the high priest, who was an aunt to the children, heard what was being done and ran and seized the youngest babe, and hid it in her own room in the temple so that it could not be found.

The wicked grandmother, thinking that the children were all dead, was made queen and ruled without fear. She had idols made and set up all over the country, and asked the people to worship them. Many people remained true to God and would not worship the idols, but prayed to God that the time would soon come when they could again worship God in the temple.

For six years the wicked queen ruled. During this time little Joash was kept hidden in a part



## JOASH'S GOOD BEGINNING

of the temple where only the priests were allowed to come. The good aunt who had saved his life taught him about God. No one but her and the priest knew that he was alive.

The wicked queen was following out her simple plans, but the eyes of God were watching her in her wickedness, and waiting for a time when she could be punished and the rightful king put upon the throne. God always allows the wicked to do as they wish for a while, but there comes a time when they are called to stop and receive their punishment. It was so with this wicked queen.

One Sabbath day, when Joash was seven years old, by the order of the high priest, a large number of the priests came to the temple to worship. There were many shields and spears which belonged to King David stored away in the temple. These were given to the servants who stood around the temple and kept guard so that no one might go in. Then the high priest brought out the little prince who had been hidden more than six years and stood him before the people. He told them how the boy's life had been saved and how he had been kept hidden, and he taught that he was the rightful ruler of Judah. Then he poured oil on the head of the young prince, anointing him, and placed the crown upon his head making him king of Judah. Then the priests and people

## JOASH'S GOOD BEGINNING

---

shouted and blew their trumpets and cried aloud, "God save the King."

The cruel queen sitting in her palace near-by heard the shouts of joy and saw the people running about. She came to the temple to learn the cause of all the excitement. Looking in she saw the little king standing by a large pillar with the crown on his head. The princes of the land stood by him, and all the people rejoiced and blew on trumpets and the singers in the temple sang to the instruments of music. Then the queen became angry and cried out, "Here is rebellion." Then the high priest ordered her taken out of the temple and slain.

The high priest and Joash with all the people promised that they would serve the Lord, for the queen had served heathen gods.

As the young king grew in years he was guided by his uncle the high priest.

The temple had been partly ruined and the sacred vessels of gold and silver had been stolen, so Joash directed the temple to be repaired.

A very interesting thing to remember is that Joash, aided by his uncle, set up the first missionary box that we read about, in the temple in Jerusalem. Money was needed to repair the temple, so he ordered a chest brought and a hole bored in the side of it and set before the

## JOASH'S GOOD BEGINNING

door of the temple. Then word was sent throughout the land that every man should bring a piece of silver as an offering to the Lord. As the people came to the temple for religious services they put the money in the chest and it was soon filled. Then the repairs were begun, and in a short time the temple was restored to its former beauty. The chest was opened, and the carpenters and masons and builders were paid.

For twenty-three years Joash served God, and wished the people to serve the true God. His kingdom was prosperous and there was peace and happiness.

If we could leave Joash at this point we would think him a pretty good young man, but we cannot. When his uncle died, he was led astray as many young men are.

The other princes were wicked in heart and did not come to the temple to worship. Joash gave them permission to remain away and worship idols. His cousin, Zechariah, urged him not to forsake God, but he became angry and asked the people to stone the good priest. This was the one great sin of his life. Other sins followed as they always do and Joash became a very bad ruler.

What a pity that a good, well-trained young man should turn out in that way. He did not

## JOASH'S GOOD BEGINNING

think of these words, "Be sure your sin will find you out," and that punishment would come to him for forsaking God.

At the end of the year the great Syrian captain, Hazael, came down from the north with his armies and besieged Jerusalem, and took all the treasures of gold and silver from the temple. The land was soon filled with misery and Joash had no one who was kind or faithful to him. He had forsaken God and God had forsaken him. He hid himself in the tower of Millo where he was taken very sick. His own servants did not love him, and one day as he lay on his bed of suffering, one of the servants killed him.

They refused to bury him in the royal sepulcher because of his sinful life, and he was put in a common grave unpitied and unloved without a friend and without a tear.

What a sad lesson we have from Joash. His was a life full of promise and it had a bright beginning. He loved God and served him, and the people all loved their boy king and served him. But when he began to do that which was wrong and live contrary to God's law, then he began to lose the respect of his people and the blessings of God. It brought him sorrow, robbed him of his peace of mind and health of body, and kept his soul out of heaven. It brought ruin into his

## JOASH'S GOOD BEGINNING

kingdom and despair into the hearts of the people.

If he had only followed God all the days of his life as he had been taught by his good aunt and uncle, he would then have been a great blessing and the Lord would have honored him to the end of his life.



## HOW LITTLE SAMUEL HEARD THE LORD

**W**E read so much about David and Samuel, and Moses and Noah, as prophets in olden times, that it seems very strange to think that they were once little children. It seems strange to think of Peter and John as barefooted boys, wading in the water on the beach of the Sea of Galilee trying to catch fish with a crooked pin for a hook, or little David playing with the young lambs in his father's pasture back of Bethlehem, or little Samuel lying on the green grass near the tabernacle when he was tired playing with the other boys.

As soon as Samuel was old enough to walk and talk, his mother, Hannah, took him up to Shiloh to live with Eli, the high priest, in the temple. We shall call Eli the minister who had charge of the Jewish meetinghouse in Shiloh.

In this temple over which Eli presided was the Holy Place, and the Ark of the Covenant, and the altar of brass, and the golden candlestick, and many other sacred things.

Hannah gave her little son to the Lord be-

## HOW SAMUEL HEARD THE LORD

cause she had prayed for a son and promised that if the Lord should send her a son he should be given to service in the temple.

The mother found it hard to part with her only boy, for she loved him dearly, but she kept her promise to God, and because she did, the Lord gave her three sons and two daughters in Samuel's place.

So many of us make all kinds of promises to the Lord when we are sick or in trouble or want something, but we do not keep our promises. Too often, as soon as we have what we want, our promises are forgotten.

It is said that little Samuel worshiped God, that is, he prayed the prayers his mother had taught him. And as he grew older he helped Eli about the temple. It was his duty to see that the lights in the golden candlesticks were all burning, and to open the doors of the temple in the morning and see that all things were in order.

Once every year his mother would come to see him. This was when she and her husband would come to offer sacrifice to the Lord. This was a peculiar custom which the Jews had. They had a meeting in their village every Sabbath, and then once a year everybody in the whole nation would go to a great meeting at Jerusalem which lasted one week.



As soon as little Samuel was old enough, his mother took him to Shiloh to live with Eli in the temple



## HOW SAMUEL HEARD THE LORD

Every year Samuel's mother would make him a little coat and take it to him. Can you imagine how anxious the parents were to see their son? They would count the days, and when the time came they would start early in the morning. As they went they would talk about Samuel. They reached the place before noon, for they had only ten miles to travel. Imagine their joy at seeing little Samuel, so stout and healthy. Then his mother would give him the little coat.

This was not such a coat as we wear. In that country the climate was quite warm, but at some seasons of the year the nights were cool. The people wore light clothing, and when the cool nights came they had a kind of overcoat to throw over themselves. It was this little coat that Samuel's mother brought him every year. He wore it on cool mornings when working about the temple.

Samuel must have been very happy whenever his mother came and brought him a new coat. Some children would have become proud and vain if they had been dressed as Samuel was in his temple uniform and with his new coat, but he remained humble, and was an obedient and godly child. He performed his simple duties in the temple with just as much care as if they had



## HOW SAMUEL HEARD THE LORD

been greater. By being careful about these little things and obeying God, he became a great man in a few years.

One night, when Samuel was about twelve years old, he had gone to his room for the night near to where Eli slept. During the night he was awakened from his sleep by hearing someone call his name. He rose and ran to Eli. "Here am I, for thou calledst me," he cried. He thought it was Eli who called him, but Eli said, "I called not, lie down again," and Samuel went and lay down.

He had just gone to sleep when he heard the voice again calling him. He was sure that it was Eli who called, and he hurried to his bedside. But Eli said, "I called not, my son, lie down again."

Samuel heard the voice calling him the third time, and he again went to his master. Then Eli knew that it was the Lord who had called, and he said to him, "Go, lie down, and if he call thee, say, 'Speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth.'"

So Samuel went and lay down again. And the Lord came and called as before, "Samuel, Samuel." Then Samuel answered as he had been told, and the voice said to him that the Lord was going to punish the people of Israel for their sins, and that Eli's two sons would die in one

## HOW SAMUEL HEARD THE LORD

day because of their wickedness. He said that he would also punish Eli for not doing more to keep his sons from their evil ways.

Samuel lay still until the morning, and then arose and began to attend to his duties in the temple, for he was afraid to tell Eli what the Lord had told him. But Eli called him and asked what the Lord had said to him. Then Samuel told him every word. When Eli heard it, he said, "It is the Lord, let him do what seemeth good." He knew that he deserved punishment and was willing to take what the Lord gave him.

Soon after this time the sons were killed in battle; and when their father heard that they were dead, and that the ark of God had been taken, he fell from his seat dead.

From this time God was very near to Samuel. He became the prophet and ruler of his people. He lived a useful and holy life, and died at a very old age.

## THE BATTLE BETWEEN DAVID AND THE GIANT

**N**EARLY three thousand years ago a shepherd boy was watching his father's sheep among the hills of Judea. The boy's name was David. He was about fifteen or sixteen years of age. His home was in a little country town called Bethlehem, six miles south of Jerusalem. His father, Jesse, was an elder in the Jewish church and one of the most prominent men in the town.

There were ten children in the family. David was the youngest. He was pretty much like other boys and was always ready to do his share of the work. Nothing pleased him more than to drive the sheep to the mountain pastures.

But God had another work for David to do. Neither David nor his parents ever imagined such a thing. It was an important work.

The people of Israel wanted a king to rule over them, so God told his faithful prophet Samuel to go to a young man named Saul and anoint him to be the first king of Israel. Saul was a brave soldier and a bright young man, and the people were well pleased. For several

## DAVID AND THE GIANT

---

years Saul did right and pleased God, but one day he disobeyed, and because of this disobedience God ordered Samuel to tell Saul that he would be punished for his sin. As a punishment he would no longer be allowed to govern the people.

Samuel loved Saul and was very sad when he heard of his wickedness.

God then told Samuel to go to the village of Bethlehem, to the house of Jesse, and from his family a new king should be chosen. With a sad heart Samuel walked along the road to Bethlehem wondering whom God would direct him to choose as king.

At Bethlehem they were having their yearly sacrificial feast, and when the old prophet Samuel appeared suddenly in their midst, everybody was surprised. He drove a young cow before him, and in his hand he carried a horn of oil.

When he found the house of Jesse he killed the cow, which signified that something important was about to happen.

Samuel then asked Jesse to call his sons. Eliab, the oldest son, appeared first. He was tall and kingly in appearance, and Samuel thought surely the Lord would choose him to be king, but he told Samuel that Eliab was not the one. "The Lord seeth not as man seeth, for



## DAVID AND THE GIANT

---

man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart," the Lord told Samuel.

Then seven sons came before Samuel, but they were not the ones. The prophet asked, "Are these all thy children?" Jesse answered, "There is yet one left, the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." "Send and bring him quickly," said Samuel. He was at once sent for, and as he came out of the field and stood before the prophet the Lord said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he." Then Samuel took the oil and poured it on the boy's head and anointed him before all his brothers. In this way God chose David to be the second king of Israel. Everybody wondered what it all meant. Even David could not understand.

David was a mere boy, only sixteen or seventeen years old. His cheeks were red and his face was fair; his hair was auburn; his eyes sparkled with brightness. He was a fast runner and was very strong. He had not learned any bad habits that would weaken him. Best of all, he loved God, and that love made him gentle and kind to all who knew him.

After the prophet had gone, they all wondered what had happened. They knew that it was something very important, but what, none of

## DAVID AND THE GIANT

---

them could tell. Even David did not know. So he returned to the fields to care for his flocks.

David did not grow conceited as some boys do, but he became more humble and devoted than ever, for he felt that God was preparing him for some great and good work.

Being a shepherd was not easy in those days. There were many dangers. Wild beasts often tried to carry off the sheep. Lions and wolves, bears and panthers, would sometimes get very bold; then the good shepherd would cast a sharp stone from his sling and kill the wild animal. We are told that at one time David killed a bear and at another time a lion as it was carrying off a lamb.

We do not hear anything more of David for nearly a year. A war had broken out between the Israelites and their enemies, the Philistines. The two armies faced each other. Each army was encamped on a hill with a deep ravine separating them. Saul, who was still king, was commanding the armies of Israel.

David had three brothers in this army, and his father had asked him to take them some loaves of bread and parched corn and slices of milk-cheese. As he came near the armies he heard the battle shout.

There was in the Philistine army a giant

## DAVID AND THE GIANT

---

named Goliath. He was ten feet tall. On his breast was a helmet made of brass, and he wore a coat of armor; pieces of brass also covered his legs so that no sword or spear might wound him.

Twice a day for forty days he had come down the hillside and shouted, "Why do you want a battle? I am a Philistine, you are Israelites and subject to Saul. Choose one man out of all your army and let him come and fight me. If he kills me then all the Philistines shall be your servants, and obey your king; but if I kill him, then you shall be our servants and obey our king."

No man in the army of Israel dared go out and meet the great giant. When David heard this he became very angry at this giant who dared to defy the army of God's people. He was a brave shepherd lad and was sure that God would help anyone who would go out and meet the daring giant, so he volunteered to go. His oldest brother made fun of him and told him he had better go home and take care of the sheep. Some of the other soldiers laughed at him. David was not discouraged and he said that if God would save him from the lion and the bear he would surely save him from the giant.

King Saul heard what David had volunteered to do and sent for him. When he saw the lad, he could hardly believe that David could do

## DAVID AND THE GIANT

---

anything, but he knew that something must be done, so he told David that he might go, but he must put on armor.

A heavy suit of armor was brought out and put on David. It was so large and heavy that he could not fight with it, so he took it off again and said that he would go without armor, or sword, or spear, but by faith in God for victory.

When David came up to the camp, he brought with him his shepherd's staff, and his sling with which he used to shoot at squirrels and wild animals. He also had a leather bag tied about his waist.

Can't you imagine the proud, boastful, wicked giant, a huge monster with a great sword in his hand and a heavy armor covering his body, standing on one side! On the other side stands David the young shepherd. He has a loose shepherd's cloak about his body, and a shepherd's staff in his hand, and a sling in the other. He is a good boy with strong faith in God.

The armies of Israel looked with astonishment when they saw this boy going down toward the giant. As he passed over the brook that flowed through the ravine separating the two armies he stopped and picked up several round stones and put them in his shepherd's pouch. As David came near, the giant laughed at him,



## DAVID AND THE GIANT

for he had expected to see a great soldier. Here was a boy who had never seen a battle. The giant called upon his idols to curse David.

But this did not scare David and he said to the giant, "Thou comest to me trusting in thy sword, thy shield, and thy spear; but I come to



THE GIANT FELL DOWN UPON HIS FACE TO THE EARTH

thee, trusting in the God of Israel. For this day he will give thee into my hand, and I will kill thee and cut off thy head from thee; and the army of the Philistines shall be slain, and their dead bodies shall lie on the ground, and the

## DAVID AND THE GIANT

---

birds of the air and the wild beasts of the field shall eat them."

This made the giant very angry and he came toward David to kill him. But David ran nearer to him, and put his hand in his shepherd's bag, and took out a stone. He put it in his sling and struck the giant in his forehead so that the stone sunk into his forehead, and he fell down upon his face to the earth. Then David took the giant's sword and cut off his head with it.

When the Philistines saw that the man in whom they had trusted was slain, they fled. Then the armies of Israel rushed forward and followed after them and slew many.

This was a great victory given by God, and David did not forget to thank God for his great goodness. From that time David became one of the great young men of the nation; the king gave him a reward and God blessed and prospered him.

## THE REIGN OF WISE KING SOLOMON

**K**ING DAVID was a wise and good ruler of the people. He had a large family. Solomon was the youngest son, and came to be even a wiser man than his father. Solomon is a good name, for it means "peaceful."

Solomon's mother's name was Bathsheba. She was the most beautiful woman in all the land. Solomon inherited some of his mother's beauty, and his father's wisdom, for he was a very handsome lad, and bright and intelligent. He was his mother's favorite and she gave special attention to his training and education. She also made David promise that when he became old and feeble that Solomon should be made king.

Little Solomon enjoyed many favors that most boys do not have. He lived in the king's palace and had many servants to wait on him. He played with the prettiest toys that were made in those days. When he sat at the table he ate the best food that could be prepared. He wore the best clothing that could be made, and his mother always kept him neat and clean. He could go out riding in the chariot and people would bow

## REIGN OF WISE KING SOLOMON

down to him. All of this would spoil the average boy, but not so with Solomon. He remained tender and kind.

Nearly every boy loves to play at war, or be a hero, or march and shoot. Solomon did not take much interest in those games. He would much rather have one of the servants read to him. He loved to listen to music, and he learned to play the harp.

The wisest teachers in Jerusalem were chosen to teach him. He probably had a special room in the palace where his teachers came to teach him and where he often studied under the attention of his mother.

The boy soon grew to be a splendid young man. He was a prince, and everybody admired him, for he was not only handsome, but intelligent, musical, well educated, and very religious.

We do not hear anything more of him until he was about twenty years old. His father, David, had grown old and feeble. He began to feel that someone might get the throne away from him, so Solomon was taken to Gihon and anointed king by the chief priest, Zadok. Whenever a king was anointed a horn was filled with oil and poured upon the head. Horns were blown and the people shouted for the new king. After the ceremony was over he was brought back



## REIGN OF WISE KING SOLOMON

to Jerusalem followed by great crowds of people. They were blowing horns and shouting, "Long live King Solomon. Long live our wise new king." Then Solomon was seated upon the royal throne and blessed by his aged father, David.



SOLOMON WAS ANOINTED KING BY THE CHIEF PRIEST

Solomon married a kind and loving wife and had a beautiful home. God promised to give him everything that he should ask, and he asked for wisdom that he might be a good king to the people. The people loved their new king and he came to be the wisest man in the world.

## REIGN OF WISE KING SOLOMON

As soon as he became king he began to build a great temple. It was known as Solomon's Temple. He gave Hiram, the king of Tyre, the contract to furnish the lumber, and thousands of men were hired to cut cedar trees in the mountains of Lebanon.

Then King Hiram sent King Solomon skilled workmen in gold and silver, brass, iron, wood, and fine linen, to help in building the house of God. Great stones and huge timbers were hewn out according to patterns which King David had given to Solomon.

This building was made of stone and covered on the inside with cedar boards most beautifully carved with shapes of flowers. These flowers were then covered over with pure gold. The floors of the house and porch were also covered with pure gold. Several rooms in the house were curtained off with blue and purple and crimson silk curtains. He had flowers made of gold and hung in different parts of the house. There were also great golden candlesticks to give light, and many other things made of gold and silver and brass which were used when the people came to worship God.

Solomon was king over Israel for forty years when he died.

## THE BOY WHOM ELISHA RESTORED TO LIFE

**E**LISHA was chosen as God's prophet in the land of Israel after Elijah died. He traveled over the whole country on foot, with Gehazi as his attendant. Meetings were held in the different towns and cities.

Samaria was the home of Elisha, but on his journey to different parts of the country he often passed through the village of Shunem. Whenever he stopped in Shunem he was invited by one of the leading families to come to their home for rest and food. This family was wealthy and the woman believed in God. She was a great worker in the mission church which Elisha had founded in their town. So kind was she to him, that she furnished a room in her house, putting into it a bed, a table, a stool, and a candlestick. This was to be Elisha's room, and whenever he passed through the place he could come to this room and rest. It was really his second home.

There was a little boy in this home. We do not know his name for it is not given. Elisha loved the little fellow, and his father and mother gave him everything a child should have.

## THE BOY ELISHA RESTORED

One morning, when he was about five years old, he went out into the harvest fields with his father. He had not been there long before he became very sick and cried to his father, "My head, my head." He had a sunstroke, and one of the men carried him home to his mother. She held him in her lap until noon, then he died.

She took him up to the little room that had been given to the prophet and laid him on the bed. Then she called her husband, and he sent one of the young men to take her to Elisha as quickly as possible, and they hastened toward Mount Carmel, a distance of about sixteen miles.

The altar of Jehovah was near the top of Mount Carmel and from that place one could see a long distance. Elisha saw her coming a great way off. He knew that something had happened, and he sent his servant to go to meet her.

When she came to Elisha she fell down and caught him by the feet and wept. Before Elisha could ask about her trouble she cried, "Did I not ask the Lord that I might have a son?" Then the prophet knew that the boy was dead.

Elisha then asked his servant, Gehazi, to take his rod and hasten to where the child was, but the mother would not go without the prophet.



## THE BOY ELISHA RESTORED

Gehazi came to the house first and went to the bedside where the boy lay. He laid his rod upon him and tried to bring him to life, but the child did not speak or hear.

When Elisha came he went into the chamber, and shut the door and prayed to the Lord.



THE MOTHER WENT OUT HAPPY WITH HER LITTLE SON

Then he got upon the bed and lay upon the child, and put his mouth upon the child's mouth, and his eyes upon the child's eyes, and his hands upon the child's hands, and the child's flesh began to get warm. Then Elisha came out of the room

## THE BOY ELISHA RESTORED

and walked for a while up and down in the house. Again he went and lay upon the child, and the child moved and sneezed seven times, and opened his eyes and came to life.

The servant called the boy's mother who was earnestly praying and waiting in another room and she came in and took her dear little boy alive and well as ever. She bowed down in thankfulness to Elisha for what he had done, and went out happy with her little son.

## THE BOY JOSIAH BECOMES A GOOD KING

**N**EARLY three hundred years before this boy was born, a prophet of Judah told a wicked king of Israel that some day a good king would be born who would be called Josiah. This king would cause all the altars of Baal to be destroyed and the worship of the heathen gods to be broken up.

The people had become very wicked. There were idols everywhere. In almost every house and under every green tree in the yards, the people had some kind of peculiar looking animal or man made of stone or wood which they worshiped.

Nobody could remember when the people used to have the true worship of God in the temple and enjoy a quiet Sabbath day. The Bibles had all been lost and the children did not know that there was such a thing as the book of the law. The people would drink and swear and carouse and fight in the streets. There was wickedness everywhere. All the kings for ninety years had sided with the people.

Just think of a little boy eight years old becoming king of such wicked people! It was a

## JOSIAH BECOMES A GOOD KING

hard place for so young a king. His father, Ammon, had been king only two years when the people became dissatisfied and killed him. Then the oldest son, Josiah, was crowned. Even though he was a king he was very much like other boys. He was a fine-looking boy, and with his kingly dress looked splendid.

Just imagine that you can see him with his long, black hair which was never cut, and his sharp, black eyes full of life and determination. He wore a fine linen dress of a rich purple color. Around his head was a wide band of something like a crown shining with gold and costly pearls. Around his neck and arms were bands of beautiful pearls. He sat on a high throne which Solomon had made of gold and ivory. In his right hand he held a scepter covered with pure gold. The palace was his home, a most beautiful place surrounded by lovely gardens of rare flowers and trees, and fountains of water. Along these lovely walks Josiah would often romp and play as other boys. At the table the best things were given him to eat. When he went on a journey he rode in a fine chariot. Servants ran ahead to tell the people that the king was coming. Then the people would come and stand along the roadside to see him, and as he passed they would bow to the ground. He was the greatest



## JOSIAH BECOMES A GOOD KING

person in the kingdom and all the people had to obey him.

He was only a boy and did not know how to govern the people, so things went on about as they were for many years. During this time Josiah was studying and preparing himself for his work. He did not want to do evil and live a wicked life as his father had done, for he loved God.

Hilkiah, the high priest, was a good man and taught him the ways of the Lord. His mother often told him of the good King David and he hoped that he too would prove to be a good king.

When he was eighteen years old he thought it time to make some changes. He was now old enough so that the people would respect his orders.

The first thing he did was to send men throughout all the land of Judah and Israel with orders to break down all the altars and images of the false gods. He himself traveled over the land to see that it was well done. Returning to Jerusalem he set men to work to repair the temple which had not been used for many years. While the temple was being cleaned a copy of the law of God was found. When the work was done Josiah called a servant. "Go up to the high priest," he said, "and tell him to count

## JOSIAH BECOMES A GOOD KING

the money which the people have brought, and let it be given to the carpenters, the builders, and the masons who are at work repairing the temple.”

When the temple was completed a meeting of all the elders and priests and people of Judah



KING JOSIAH CAUSED THE BOOK OF THE LAW TO BE READ TO  
ALL THE PEOPLE

and Jerusalem was called and a great feast given. Josiah wanted the people to live according to the law of God which had been found. This was to be a great reform, and was not an easy thing to do. So when the people were all assembled,

## JOSIAH BECOMES A GOOD KING

the king caused the law to be read. Then he made a vow, or covenant, with God that he would obey the law and asked the people to do the same, and they all promised to obey the commandments of God. This was a day of great blessing and was talked about throughout the whole kingdom. The people became better and for the remaining thirteen years of Josiah's reign there was peace and prosperity in the land.

The king of Egypt with his army came up into Josiah's kingdom and opened war on him and Josiah was killed in the battle. So his good life came to an end.

Was not Josiah a noble boy? Although he was made king, and could have had anything he wanted by asking for it, he did not become selfish and proud, but remained humble and good, and tried to serve God as King David had done four hundred years before.

Josiah shows us that a boy can become a Christian, even if many things seem to prevent it, and he can grow up to be a good man.

Josiah had to serve God alone. The people were all wicked, and only his mother and the old high priest tried to help him be a good boy. All the other boys were wicked. It was hard, but Josiah was determined to do right and he succeeded.

## HOW DANIEL WAS SAVED FROM THE LIONS

**D**ANIEL lived with his parents in Jerusalem. They were well-to-do, and among the best people in the city. Daniel was a good-looking, bright, promising boy. His body was healthy and strong, and he was well advanced in his studies.

When Daniel was about fourteen years old, King Nebuchadnezzar and a large army came down and captured Jerusalem. The people were made captive and carried away five hundred miles to Babylon, where they were kept for seventy years. Daniel and his parents were among the captives.

When they came to Babylon the king asked the chief captain of his officers to choose several of the brightest and strongest of the captive boys, that he might take them to his own palace. He wanted to teach them the language and literature of the Chaldeans for three years; then they were to become helpers and secretaries of the king.

Daniel was one of the four boys that were chosen, and with the others was taken to the



## DANIEL SAVED FROM THE LIONS

palace where the king gave them over to the care and training of private teachers.

The king had given orders that these boys must be well fed, so that by the time they finished their studies they would be plump and good looking. So the king sent them, each day, meat and wine from his own table. But Daniel and his three companions had been taught that it was wrong to drink wine and that it would weaken their mind and body. God had also commanded the children of Israel not to eat some of the meat which the Chaldeans used for food, so Daniel would not eat the king's meat or drink his wine. It looked so good that he was almost tempted to eat and drink, but he knew it was wrong and resolved that he would not defile himself; and the other three boys followed his good example.

Then Daniel spoke to the chief officer who had charge of them, and asked his permission not to eat the food which the king sent. The officer loved Daniel, but dared not give his permission, for it might displease the king and he would then lose his life. So the chief officer gave Daniel and his three friends over to the care of another officer who was called the steward. Then Daniel said to the steward, "Try us ten days; give us, for that time, only vegetables

## DANIEL SAVED FROM THE LIONS

to eat and water to drink. Afterward look at our faces and the faces of the other young men, and if we look not as well as they, then give us whatever thou shalt think best for us to eat."

For ten days the steward gave them pulse, or vegetables, to eat, and at the end of that time their faces were fatter and fairer than the faces of all the other young men who ate rich food from the king's table.

After this they ate only vegetables and grain foods, and God helped them get knowledge and wisdom and made Daniel able to understand visions and dreams.

After they had been taught and trained for three years the chief officer brought them before the king for their final examination. The king talked with them and found that of all those who had been chosen none were equal to Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They had greater wisdom and understanding than all the wise men of his kingdom, and were chosen to be the king's helpers.

The king was very wicked and superstitious, and often had strange dreams. He would then call his wise men to him and ask them what his dream meant. Twice God sent him a vision in the form of a dream and his wise men could not

## DANIEL SAVED FROM THE LIONS

tell the meaning. Daniel was sent for each time and gave the king the right interpretation.

All this time Daniel, as a young man, was growing in wisdom and knowledge so that he became a great and good man. The king gave Daniel many gifts, and appointed him ruler over Babylon, and the chief governor over all the wise men. And at Daniel's request the king made his three friends also rulers in the land.

In a few years Nebuchadnezzar, the king, died, and Belshazzar became king. Daniel was made the third ruler in the kingdom under the new king.

Later when King Darius came to the throne he made many princes and appointed three presidents over these princes. Daniel was the first and greatest, so that he became the chief over all the presidents and princes. This made the others hate Daniel, and they tried to find something evil that they might say about him, but they could find nothing against him, for he was faithful and honest, and was a wise and good man.

Then the princes and presidents came to the king and said that they wanted a law to be made, that whosoever should ask help of any god or man for thirty days, except of the king, should be cast into the den of lions. They thought in

## DANIEL SAVED FROM THE LIONS

this way to get rid of Daniel, for he would surely pray to his God. They urged the king to make the law and sign it in writing so that it could not be changed.

When Daniel knew that the law was signed, he went into his house and opened the window toward Jerusalem, and kneeled and prayed to God three times a day as he had always done.

Some of these wise men came and watched and saw Daniel pray, and then hastened to tell the king and demanded that he be put in the lions' den for disobeying the wicked law which the king had so foolishly made.

This greatly displeased the king, for he loved Daniel, and tried to excuse him.

The presidents and princes all reminded him that the law of the Medes and Persians could not be changed, not even by the king who had made it. Then the king commanded his servants to bring Daniel, and they brought him and cast him into the den of lions.

Then the king went home to his palace, but he could not eat or sleep during the entire night. In the morning he arose early and hastened to the den of lions anxious to know whether Daniel, whom he loved, was dead or alive.

His mournful voice called out, at the mouth of the cave, "O Daniel, thou servant of the living



## DANIEL SAVED FROM THE LIONS

God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?"

Then he listened, and heard Daniel answer, "O king, live forever. My God has sent his angel, and shut the lions' mouths that they have not hurt me, because I have not sinned against him; and also, unto thee, O king, I have done no wrong." When the king heard this he was glad and commanded Daniel to be taken out of the den. The lions had not touched him because he trusted in God.

King Darius made a decree and sent it to every part of his kingdom telling the people to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, for he is the living God; his kingdom is one that shall never be destroyed, and his power shall never end. He is the God who can save from danger, who saved Daniel from the mouths of the lions.

Daniel was now growing to be an old man. He lived several years longer in Babylon. One evening while he was praying, the angel Gabriel flew by him swiftly and touched him. Then the angel told Daniel that God greatly loved him. The angel also said that the Jews should go back to their own land again and build up Jerusalem, and that four hundred eighty years after that, the Saviour would be born.

## DANIEL SAVED FROM THE LIONS

Daniel lived to be over eighty-five years of age. During all his life, from the time he was a captive boy fourteen years old till his death, he was true to God and overcame every temptation. He lived so that no one could find any fault in him.

He was the chief officer and ruler under several kings. He was honest, and had the courage to do right. He had a kind and loving disposition, which gave him a beautiful character.

## JESUS AS A BOY

**T**HE Emperor of Rome made a decree that all the people should have their names enrolled so that they might be properly taxed.

The Jews were under Roman rule and had to obey the emperor. Joseph and Mary were living at Nazareth and they had to go to Bethlehem, a distance of nearly seventy miles, to enroll their names.

When they came to Bethlehem, they could not find a place to stay for the night. The little hotel was full of others who had come earlier. They were tired, and did not care to remain in the streets all night; so they went into a small barn or stable to rest, and while there, during the night, a son was born to Mary. It was Jesus the Messiah, the son whom the angel had promised to Mary; and they laid him in a manger for a cradle.

During the same night there were shepherds out on the plains caring for their flocks. Suddenly it became very light all around them and they saw angels coming down near to them. One of the angels said, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy

## JESUS AS A BOY

---

which shall be to all the people; for there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. And this is the sign unto you: Ye shall find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, and lying in a manger." Then they all sang:

"Glory to God in the highest,  
And on earth peace, good will toward men."

After the angels had gone, the shepherds hurried to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph and the child as the angel had said. Then they returned to their flocks, praising God and telling all whom they saw about what had happened.

When the babe was eight days old, his parents named him Jesus, as the angel had commanded them to do.

In a far-off eastern country lived three Wise Men. They were on their way to Jerusalem, for they believed that Jesus the Messiah would soon be born. On the way they saw his star in the sky and knew that he was born. They were rich as well as wise and brought fine presents for Jesus. They followed his star until they came to where he was and then gave gifts to him and worshiped him.

King Herod, who was a very wicked man,



## JESUS AS A BOY

---

heard about Jesus and that they called him king, and he became troubled, for he was afraid that the child which was born would some day be made king over Judea instead of himself, so he sent his soldiers to Bethlehem with orders to kill all the boy babies in the village and its borders, who were two years old or younger. He hoped that Jesus would be among the slain.

But before Herod's servants came, an angel came one night and warned Joseph of what Herod intended to do and told him to take Jesus and his mother and flee into Egypt and stay there until Herod should die; and Joseph arose and they fled into Egypt.

Several months later Herod died, and the angel told Joseph that they might return to their own land of Israel. So they went to live in the city of Nazareth, their old home.

When Jesus was about twelve years old, he was taken by his parents to the Feast of the Passover in Jerusalem. This was a feast held in the spring of each year so that the Jews might not forget how God had spared their fathers on the night when an angel slew the firstborn child in every Egyptian family.

It was a long journey of about seventy miles for them to travel from their home in Nazareth to Jerusalem. At these times the neighbors and

## JESUS AS A BOY

---

friends would travel together in small companies and take their meals with them.

This was the first time Jesus was brought to the Passover Feast, yet he understood its meaning and all the other services of the Jews and he kept all the laws of God and performed his duties.

At the close of the feast, which lasted one week, Joseph and Mary, with their friends from Nazareth, started to return home. They did not give much attention to Jesus for he was with the other children who had come with them, and they journeyed all day thinking that Jesus was playing along the roadside with his friends.

Toward evening, when they began thinking of putting up their tents and resting for the night, they began to wonder why they had not seen Jesus, and made inquiry for him, but none of their friends had seen him all day. Then they became alarmed and hurried back to Jerusalem, afraid that he was lost in the great city. For three days they searched for him, and when they found him he was in the temple talking with the doctors and wise men, hearing what they said and asking questions, and they were astonished at what he said.

When Mary found Jesus, she said, "Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? Behold, thy father and I sought thee sorrowing."

## JESUS AS A BOY

---

Then he answered them kindly, "How is it that ye sought me? Know ye not that I must be about my Father's business?"

Jesus was always obedient to his father and mother, but he meant here that he must be doing



JOSEPH AND MARY FOUND JESUS IN THE TEMPLE TALKING WITH  
THE DOCTORS

what his Father in heaven had sent him on earth to do.

God had sent him to teach and explain the Scriptures to the people, before he would die on

## JESUS AS A BOY

---

the cross for their sins; but Joseph and Mary did not understand what he meant.

Jesus then went with his parents to their home in Nazareth, and was an obedient son. All that is told of him for the next eighteen years is that he grew "in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man."

During those quiet years at home, until he was thirty years of age, he was preparing for the great work which his Father in heaven had sent him to do.

In those days every boy twelve years of age had to learn a trade of some kind. Jesus learned the carpenter's trade and worked with his father.

During those years at home his mother taught him all that she could, and possibly one of the scribes in the village synagogue helped him in his education. His textbook was principally the Old Testament.

Jesus was a wonderful child. Although he was divine, Jesus came to this world which he himself had made, and was born as a little babe and lived here until he was thirty-three years old, and then was put to a shameful death on the cross by those whom he came to save.

Why did he do this?

He came and died and rose again and went to heaven that he might be our Saviour and save



## JESUS AS A BOY

---

us from sin. He also came and lived here as a boy and a man that he might be an example for us to follow.

His is the only perfect example to follow, for he never committed any sin, and he was always doing good. Because of this Jesus should always be our example.

## THE LAD WITH THE LOAVES AND FISHES

**J**ESUS and his disciples were very busy. The disciples had gone into every town and country place to teach the people and heal the sick. Two of them traveled together on this missionary work. Now they had all returned and reported to Jesus the work which they had done. They were all very tired, and so Jesus bade them go to some quiet place and rest for a few hours.

This rest was necessary, for there were so many coming and going that they had no time even to eat.

They took a boat and sailed to the other side of the lake where there were high hills and no people living, so that they might be alone, and rest during the afternoon and evening. But some people saw them and told others and they ran several miles around the head of the lake and waded across the Jordan river and came to the other side almost as soon as the Saviour and his disciples.

Many of the people who were going down to Jerusalem to the great feast stopped and joined

## LAD WITH LOAVES AND FISHES

them, until there were five thousand men, besides women and children.

Jesus could not get away from the people even to rest. They were eager to hear him and have him cure their sick.

In this great company of people there was a small boy with five barley loaves and two small fishes. We do not know much about this boy. He must have been quite young, perhaps nine or ten years old, for the Bible says he was a lad. He lived in one of the villages by the lake and was a wide-awake boy or he would not have been with those people.

It was in the springtime. The ground was covered with a rich, green grass. The birds sang in the trees and the flowers grew on the hillsides. The boy was probably barefoot and in his shirt sleeves, and had taken his lunch and gone up near the head of the lake to fish for the day, when the crowds came along, and he went with them.

When they reached this quiet place among the hills, many people had already gathered, but, like a boy, he pushed his way through the crowd of people until he was in the center near the disciples where he could look upon the face of Jesus.

It was growing late in the afternoon and the sun was beginning to hide behind some of the hills and the light was growing dim in the valley.

## LAD WITH LOAVES AND FISHES

The people did not seem to notice this for they showed no signs of going home.

One of the apostles asked Jesus how these people could all get their supper, as there was no place at which to buy food. Even if there



JESUS TOOK THE LOAVES AND BLESSED THEM

were, they probably would not have enough money to buy for all.

The lad remembered about his lunch which he had carried all day. In his excitement he had forgotten to eat it.

Jesus asked Philip where they could buy



## LAD WITH LOAVES AND FISHES

bread, but Philip did not know what to say. There was no shop for miles, and even if there had been, the disciples did not have money enough to buy for all. Altogether they had only about \$14.50.

The lad with the lunch was standing near to Andrew, who was Simon Peter's brother. Andrew had noticed him, and when Jesus asked where they might get some bread, Andrew, not knowing what else to say, replied, "There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?"

This was only an ordinary lunch for a boy. The loaves were made out of barley meal and were flat, something like our soda crackers. The two small fishes were dried like herring, and were to be eaten with the bread instead of butter.

No doubt the little fellow stepped forward and set the basket at the feet of the Saviour, who surely spoke a blessing to him. He surely must have felt glad that he could help even a little.

Then Jesus commanded the apostles to make all the people sit down in companies on the green grass. He took the loaves and blessed them and broke them into twelve pieces and gave a piece of bread and a piece of fish to each of the apostles and they brake from this and gave to the people, until all had enough.

## LAD WITH LOAVES AND FISHES

He then said, "Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost." And they gathered up the pieces that were left, twelve baskets full.

This was a wonderful miracle. The people were so astonished that they could do nothing but look at one another and eat of the bread and fish as it seemed to increase in their hands.

As the sun went down and the multitude arose and turned homeward, they kept saying to themselves, "This is of a truth that Prophet that should come into the world."

The little lad hurried home to tell his mother all about the things he had seen and heard that day. He never forgot that day. It made him a better boy and a good man.

## HOW TIMOTHY BECAME A MISSIONARY

**I**MAGINE yourself in a far-away country called Asia Minor. In the central part of Asia Minor is the province of Lyconia, a high but quite level country. On the east it is somewhat rocky with dense woods. On the west it slants toward the Mediterranean Sea until the mountains are reached. Toward the north is a large lake. Along the south is a long range of high mountains that were once volcanoes, but now are covered with trees and brush. Children and parents often went up these rough mountain sides to pick berries. From the mountain sides they could look out over a broad level plain for many miles.

At the base of the mountains were a number of little villages. One of these was called Lystra. Here is where Timothy was born and lived until he became a young man. During the day he would play with the other children, and at night look out of the back door of the little old house toward the dark mountains near-by, and wonder if some wild animal would dare to venture down during the night. Then when he went to bed

## TIMOTHY BECAME A MISSIONARY

he would say the Twenty-third Psalm. All the Jewish children learned this psalm in those days, and said it when retiring for the night.

The name of Timothy's mother was Eunice, and his grandmother's name was Lois. They were both good women and taught him a number of little prayers and psalms. They taught him from their Bible how God saved Noah in the ark, and Daniel in the den of lions; how David slew the giant Goliath with a sling and stone, and how Elijah was fed by ravens in the desert.

They told him of the great things God had done for their nation, and that he had promised to send them a Saviour. Timothy remembered all these things. It made him a good boy and he became a good man. In after years when Paul wrote a letter to Timothy he said, "From a child thou hast known the holy scriptures which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

Timothy did not own a Bible such as we have. Books were not printed in those days. Their books were made of long sheets of parchment and rolled upon a short stick like a roll of wall paper. These were written with a kind of reed pen, and only the rich could afford to have such a book made. So Timothy had to learn his Bible by hearing his mother repeat it to him.



## TIMOTHY BECAME A MISSIONARY

His home was a house made of stone with small openings for windows, and a flat roof. The narrow front door led to a dark entry which led into a large room. This room was open to the sky, and had doors and windows on all sides. In this open space the children played. The rooms of the house were around the sides of this open space. In pleasant weather the people generally sat on the roofs of their houses, and here Timothy's mother and grandmother taught him. They would sit up there and spin flax upon the distaff. That is the way clothes were made in those days, and Timothy's mother made all the clothes for the family. First she spun the thread, wove the cloth, then cut it out and sewed the pieces together.

Timothy was not a very healthy child, and so stayed near home. He was very tender hearted and could not bear to see any animal abused, and he always felt distressed when the other boys would plague him.

Timothy was a great help to his mother, for his father had died when he was a baby.

When he was about fifteen years old two strangers came to town. One was Paul, the first great missionary. The other was Barnabas, the traveling companion of Paul. As they walked along the streets and stopped in front of the

## TIMOTHY BECAME A MISSIONARY

houses they talked about Jesus of Nazareth, who had been crucified and buried and resurrected. Everybody talked about these two strange men, and Timothy came to see for himself.

In this town lived a poor cripple who had never walked. On pleasant days his friends used to carry him out to the sidewalk.

One day these two men came along to the place where the crippled man was sitting. They looked at the poor man for a moment, then one of them said, loudly enough so that all could hear, "Stand upright on thy feet." And the man leaped up on his feet and walked.

Timothy saw it all and hurried home to tell his mother what wonderful things he had seen.

He never forgot this day, and the next time that Paul came through Lystra, Timothy bade his mother and friends good-by and went with Paul to be a missionary to the people in other parts of his country. They traveled together and greatly loved each other.

They went from city to city and from country to country, telling the people about Jesus and urging them to believe in Him and live better lives.

Was not Timothy a noble young man? He grew up to be a good man because he believed

## TIMOTHY BECAME A MISSIONARY

what the Bible taught him to be right, and lived an honest, manly, Christian life.

As you read the Bible remember that it is a guide book. Travelers, when in foreign countries, usually buy a guide book which tells them all the interesting places to visit and the way to reach them.

The Holy Bible tells us how to live in this world that we may grow into upright Christian men and women. Learn about it as Timothy did.

## THE BOY WHO RAN AWAY FROM HOME

ONE day a great company of people gathered around Jesus. Some were sick and they wished Jesus to heal them. Some were blind and they wished Jesus to touch their eyes that they might see. Many of them were sinners and they wanted to know about God. Some in that great crowd believed on Jesus and were his disciples. Others were scribes and Pharisees who did not believe on Jesus, but were proud and unbelieving, and asked him hard questions.

Jesus spoke kindly to them and urged them to live right and love God. Then he told them a story; we call it a parable. A parable is an event, either real or imaginary, used to illustrate some truth.

He told them about a man who had two sons. One was several years younger than the other. We do not know their names, but they had a good father and mother who were rich. They had many acres of land, and many head of cattle, and many servants to do the work about the house.

The boys were well cared for, and probably



## THE BOY WHO RAN AWAY

were given everything they wanted. But Jesus tells us that the younger boy became dissatisfied with his home. Some boys do become dissatisfied with their home even in these days. They think their parents are too strict, or do not give them everything they would like, or do not allow them to go every place they wish to go. They feel like running away from home and leaving father and mother who love them and have worked so hard for them.

This boy was getting to be quite a young man and felt that he would like to leave home and work for himself. One day he came to his father and said, "Father, give me my share of the riches." Then he told his father that he was going away.

The good man's heart was saddened and his mother wept and begged her boy not to leave, and the servants stood around and wondered what it all meant. Then the father gave him his share of the property, and in a few days the son left home for a far country.

Now he could do as he pleased. He would not have any trouble with his older brother. His father would not be correcting him and telling him to do things he did not like to do. He had his pockets full of money and could spend all he wished. The young men flocked around

## THE BOY WHO RAN AWAY

him in every town in which he stopped, and he had a lively time.

He bought the finest clothes he could buy, and hired the best horses, and stopped at the best places. He was so glad that he was away from home, for they were so slow and old-fashioned at home, he thought.

There are many ungrateful boys who feel just like this, and are longing to get away from home. But let us read and see what often happens to them.

This boy got along nicely as long as his money lasted. Every young man of this type has many friends so long as he has money to spend on them, but when his money is gone these so-called friends are gone. Our true friends are those who stand by us in time of trouble as well as in prosperity.

This young man went into a far country and there wasted all the money that his father had given him, among wicked companions. He treated all the young men, and gambled some, and spent money foolishly just because he had plenty of it. Soon his money was gone and he had no work.

People do not like to keep a man who has no money to pay his board and has no work. Strangers, especially, will not do this. If he

## THE BOY WHO RAN AWAY

---

keeps company with bad companions they become still more suspicious of him.

In some way this young man managed to get something to eat for a time. Possibly he sold some of his jewelry or his good clothes.

It was not long before the clothes that he wore began to get threadbare, and a hole in the cloth began to make its appearance. He did not know what to do. He once had many friends, and good clothes, and plenty of money, and a good home. Now he was a poor beggar. His friends did not care about him and would not trust him.

At last he found a job. He hired to a man who sent him out into his fields to feed swine. It was dirty work and he had a hard master who would not give him enough to eat. He was so hungry that he would have been glad to have enough of the coarse food which the swine ate, but the man did not give it to him.

Here he suffered for several months, and one day while he was thinking, he got terribly homesick. He thought of his good home which he had left, where from a little babe he had been so well cared for. He knew that his dear mother was praying for him and that his father would forgive him. He thought of how many hired servants there were in his father's house at home,

## THE BOY WHO RAN AWAY

---

who had plenty to eat and more than they wanted, while he was out in the fields starving with hunger, and no better than the pigs he was caring for. He rose and said, "I will go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight: I am no more worthy to be called thy son; make me as one of thy hired servants."

He left that country at once and started for home. He walked many days, weary, hungry, and sore of foot. One day he neared home. His father was out in the yard and he happened to see someone coming afar off. He looked more closely, and for some reason thought it was his son. As he came nearer he was sure it was his boy returning home, and he ran to meet him, and threw his arms about him and kissed him.

Then this wayward boy who had gone away so proud and independent, wept. "Father," he cried, "I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight: I am no more worthy to be called thy son."

But the father called to the servants and said, "Bring forth quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: and bring the fatted calf, and kill it, and let us eat, and make merry: for this my son was lost, and is found." They were



## THE BOY WHO RAN AWAY

---

all glad to have him home again and began to play the best music, and to dance and rejoice.

By this parable Jesus wished to teach that God loves those who have gone away from him and lived sinful lives, and that he is willing to forgive them and take them back as his children again.

## HOW PAUL BECAME A CHRISTIAN

**P**AUL was one of the greatest men that ever lived. He stands next to Jesus in what he was and did.

It will be interesting for us to know how Paul came to be such a great and good man. It is said that "the boy is father of the man," so let us see what kind of boy he was and what kind of training he received. Possibly this will help us to understand the secret of his great and good work.

We are told that he was born at Tarsus, a beautiful business city in the southeast of Asia Minor, and the capital of Cilicia. A river ran through this city and great warehouses were built on each bank. Ships came from many countries to trade, and to buy merchandise.

The merchants and sailors, speaking many different languages, could be seen walking along the streets almost any day. Little Paul, with other boys of the city, would often go down to the docks and see the ships and the peculiarly dressed people. This was all very interesting to him.

The people of Tarsus shipped mostly timber

## HOW PAUL BECAME A CHRISTIAN

and goats' hair. The mountains near Tarsus were covered with timber, and hundreds of workmen were kept busy cutting trees and bringing them down to the river. There were also thousands of long white-haired goats kept upon the mountains. Their hair was made into a coarse kind of cloth and then manufactured into many different articles. Tents were usually made of this kind of cloth.

There were a great many wealthy people living in this city and the merchants did a good business.

Paul's father was a merchant and one of the wealthy men of the city.

His mother was a good woman; very strict in her religion, and very sympathetic. Every Sabbath day he would sit by his mother's side and hear her read out of the books of Moses, or he would accompany the family to the synagogue where the God of Israel was worshiped.

This city in which Paul lived was a very wicked city. Many of the people worshiped heathen gods and bowed down to idols. Every year these evil-minded people had a great feast, and thousands went to Tarsus from the surrounding country. The city was crowded with these heathen worshipers.

This did not influence the boy Paul. He be-

## HOW PAUL BECAME A CHRISTIAN

believed that his mother's God and their synagogue were greater than all the heathen temples.

We do not know the year in which Paul was born, but it was either the year in which Jesus was born or the year before. When Jesus was playing in the streets of Nazareth, Paul was playing in the streets of Tarsus, away on the other side of the mountains of Lebanon. Jesus came to be the Saviour of the people, while Paul persecuted those who believed in Jesus.

There were good schools in Tarsus, and Paul was sent to one of them, or had a private teacher in his own home.

He began to learn a trade when he was only eleven or twelve years old. It was customary in those days for every boy to learn a trade even if he did not follow it when he became a man.

Paul wanted to become a merchant, but his parents wished him to go to college and prepare to become a rabbi. When he was thirteen years old he was sent to college at Jerusalem. This was three hundred fifty miles from home, but because his parents had lived in Jerusalem before he was born he had a longing to see the great city. Here he studied to become a rabbi, that is, a minister and a teacher and a lawyer all in one. His teacher was Gamaliel, the greatest Jewish teacher of his time. Possibly Jesus, who was



## HOW PAUL BECAME A CHRISTIAN

now twelve years old, was in Jerusalem at the same time. He had come down from Nazareth with his parents to attend services in the holy temple.

We do not know in what year Paul's education was finished, but we know that he left Jerusalem and went to some city, many miles away, and became a teacher in a synagogue.

Paul never saw Jesus, for he had gone outside of Palestine and did not return until a few months after Jesus had been put to death upon the cross.

Jesus had been teaching in Jerusalem and in many other cities. He healed the sick and brought the dead to life. He taught the people to love one another and to love God. He asked them to believe in him as their Saviour, and he forgave those who had sinned.

Many people believed in him and followed him. The strict Jews did not believe that Jesus was the Saviour, and they tried in every way to break up his meetings, and imprison those who did believe in him. Finally, the Jews, with the Romans, crucified Jesus upon the cross.

About this time Paul returned to Jerusalem. He was one of the strictest of the Pharisees. He believed in God, but he did not think that Jesus was the Son of God. He was chosen to be one

## HOW PAUL BECAME A CHRISTIAN

of the lawmakers of Jerusalem, and had a seat in their great council, the Sanhedrin. This council wished some fearless man to break up the meetings of the Christians, and persecute them, and imprison them. They chose Paul to do this work. He went from house to house driving the Christians from their homes and putting some of them in prison.

One day he was sent on a long journey of one hundred forty miles, to Damascus, to break up a new church which the Christians had organized. He had with him legal papers to arrest anyone that was a Christian.

He was riding along the highway upon his fine horse, in all his glory. Several soldiers were with him as guards. He had almost reached Damascus, when, about noon, there was a bright light from heaven, a light so bright that no one could look upon it. A voice came out of the brightness, and Paul tumbled to the ground. The soldiers hastened to him and picked him up for dead, but he was soon revived. He could not see, and there was a strange feeling in his heart. He did not wish to injure the Christians now, he loved them. He said nothing about this, and his guards led him into Damascus and took him to the house of a friend. There, upon the third day, his sight came to him again.

## HOW PAUL BECAME A CHRISTIAN

God had spoken to Paul, but he spoke so loudly that it threw him from his horse and blinded his eyes. This made Paul believe in Jesus, and as soon as his eyes were opened he went to the church and told the believers in



GREAT CROWDS LISTENED TO PAUL AS HE PREACHED IN THE  
STREETS OF ATHENS

Jesus what he had been sent to do, but that God had interfered, and he now believed as they did. Instead of imprisoning them he would help them and preach for them.

This greatly pleased the Christians, but when

## HOW PAUL BECAME A CHRISTIAN

His friends and the council at Jerusalem heard about it they were angry and threatened to kill Paul. This made it necessary for him to remain away from Jerusalem for two or three years. When he returned he preached about Jesus and tried to help his old friends. He was grieved at the way he used to persecute the Christians, but he had been taught to do so by his parents and his teachers, and he believed it was right until God spoke to him and showed him his wickedness.

Paul was now about middle age and eager to work for the church, so the church at Jerusalem sent him out as a missionary. He traveled to all the important cities of Palestine, and to foreign lands, preaching and founding churches. He preached in the streets of Athens, and great crowds listened to him.

Paul made three long journeys and traveled many miles.

His first journey lasted two years and he traveled fifteen hundred miles.

His second journey lasted three years and he traveled thirty-five hundred miles.

His third journey lasted four years and he traveled thirty-five hundred miles.

During this time he organized many churches and did much good. He wrote fourteen of the books in the New Testament.



## HOW PAUL BECAME A CHRISTIAN

When he returned to Jerusalem his old enemies arrested him and put him in prison for two years, because he had become a Christian and preached. Finally he was tried and released, but soon they had him arrested again and taken to Rome where the emperor lived, and there they kept him a prisoner for two years longer. Here his friends often came to see him. Finally he was tried before the emperor of Rome and given his freedom.

Paul was now getting to be an old man, but he preached several years longer and went as a missionary to Spain and other countries.

Although they could find nothing against Paul and freed him, the Romans hated the Christians, and had Paul, who was their leader, arrested again. This time the Emperor Nero had him put to death.

It is sad to think that this great and good man had to be put to death by the treachery of the Romans. But Paul's work still lives and will live as long as the world lasts.

He has taught us that we can believe in Jesus, and love one another, and work for the Church even if some of our friends are not Christians.

## PAUL'S LITTLE NEPHEW

**T**HIS boy was living with his mother in Jerusalem, where all Jews loved to dwell. His mother was a sister of the great Apostle Paul. This is all we know of his parents. We are not even told the boy's name. We do not know how old he was, but he must have been small enough so that the officers and priests took no notice of him, and in this way he learned many things that enabled him to do much good and save the life of his uncle Paul.

One day as he was playing in the streets with the other boys they noticed trouble down at the Roman governor's palace, and hurried down to see what was the cause of the excitement.

As they came near they heard the people shout, "Down with him!" "Away with him," and shaking their fists angrily at someone. Then they saw some soldiers hurry away with a man and take him into the castle where the mob could not reach him. The boy saw that it was his uncle Paul. He had been arrested for preaching to the people the day before. This day he had been brought out for a trial, but in defending

## PAUL'S LITTLE NEPHEW

---

himself the people in the court room began to take sides; some were for him and some were against him. The trial ended in a fight and the soldiers had to be called to protect Paul.

As all boys will, this boy got mixed up in the crowd to see what was going to happen next. As he went along with these angry men he listened to what they were saying. As nearly as he could find out, more than forty of the angry Jews had pledged themselves that they would neither eat nor drink until they had killed Paul. Several of the boys stood around until they heard these men make their plans. The men had planned to have the priests go to the governor and have him send Paul down to the court room the next day for another hearing. While Paul was on his way they would all jump out from some hiding place and stab him or club him to death.

This was a mean, cowardly plan and the boy became frightened when he heard it. He probably hurried home and told his mother of the plan these wicked men had made to kill his uncle.

The mother knew she could not help her brother, but she could send her son, for the small children were allowed to play around the castle where Paul was imprisoned.

Imagine Paul's little nephew hurrying up to

## PAUL'S LITTLE NEPHEW

---

the castle where he had often chatted with the soldiers. But this time he hurried past the guard and soon found Paul's room. Then he told Paul the whole plot which he had heard the angry Jews make; that they would send for him to come to the court room and tell his story again, and that forty of them would be hiding along the street and jump out and kill him while on his way.

When Paul heard the boy's story, he called one of the soldiers to him and asked him to take the boy to the governor who was the chief captain, and say that the boy had something to tell him.

So he took him, and brought him to the chief captain, and said, "Paul the prisoner called me unto him, and asked me to bring this young man unto thee, who hath something to say to thee." And the chief captain took the boy by the hand, and going aside asked him privately, "What is that thou hast to tell me?" And the boy said, "The Jews have agreed to ask thee to bring down Paul tomorrow unto the council, as though thou wouldest inquire somewhat more exactly concerning him. Do not thou therefore yield unto them, for there lie in wait for him more than forty men, which have bound themselves under a curse, neither to eat nor drink till they



have slain him, and now are they ready, looking for the promise from thee."

So the chief captain let the young man go, charging him, "Tell no man that thou has signified these things to me." And he called unto him two centurions, and said, "Make ready two hundred soldiers to go as far as Caesarea, and horsemen threescore and ten, and spearmen two hundred, at the third hour of the night"; and he bade them provide beasts, that they might set Paul thereon, and bring him safe unto Felix the governor. And he wrote a letter after this form: "Claudius Lysias unto the most excellent governor Felix, greeting. This man was seized by the Jews, and was about to be slain by them, when I came upon them with the soldiers and rescued him, having learned that he was a Roman. And desiring to know the cause wherefore they accused him, I brought him down unto their council: whom I found to be accused about questions of their law, but to have nothing laid to his charge worthy of death or of bonds. And when it was shown to me that there would be a plot against the man, I sent him to thee forthwith, charging his accusers also to speak against him before thee. Farewell."

Then the soldiers took Paul and brought him by night to the town of Antipatris, which was on

## PAUL'S LITTLE NEPHEW

---

the way to Caesarea. Here the foot soldiers left him and returned to the castle at Jerusalem, but the horsemen brought him the next day to the governor at Caesarea, and gave the governor the letter which the chief captain had sent. After the governor had read the letter he asked Paul in what part of the empire he was born. When Paul told him, he said, "I will hear what thou hast to say when those who accuse thee have come." And he commanded Paul to be kept in Herod's judgment hall.

We have seen how Paul escaped with his life because of what his little nephew did. It may have seemed a little thing for him to tell his uncle what he had heard the angry mob say, but it meant much to Paul.











